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## ABSTRACT

Intended for literacy students who want to share the pleasure of reading with the children they love, this book describes 26 easy, inexpensive activities to expose children to reading. Each activity explains the type of activity, lists materials needed, and provides instructions or suggestions for extending the activity. A suggested book list categorizes 168 books suitable for sharing with a child into these groupings: libraries and books: an eye-opening experience; adventures in reading and writing; stories about literacy; cultural diversity: a world's eye view; school days; did I see that?; alphabet explorations; colors; fun with numbers; move that body; grown up issues for children, including homelessness, race and gender, inter-racial families, birth and babies, siblings, adoption, war, holocaust, day labor, death: loss and sadness, alcoholism, dangerous strangers/sexual abuse, divorce, and children with special needs; that's just how I feel; and just for fun! (YLB)

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# Kid's Play

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*Activities for adults  
& the children they love*



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# Kid's Play

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*Activities for adults  
& the children they love*

Edited by Dena Spanos-Hawkey  
Layout by Laurie Cohen

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the South Pasadena Adult Reading Center  
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## Special Thanks

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*To Keeler Dilbeck Realty, South Pasadena,  
for their continued generous support of adult literacy.*

## Dedication

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*To literacy students  
who share the pleasure of reading  
with the children they love.*

# Kid's Play

*Activities for adults & the children they love.*

## Introduction

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*Children learn by doing. Turn off the television set and the computer. Read a book or do one of the easy, inexpensive activities suggested in this book. Just fifteen minutes each evening is a good place to start.*

*Parents are their children's first and most influential teachers. Parents have an incredible opportunity. Don't miss out. Nothing is more important.*

*A list of books to share with your children is included at the end of Kid's Play. Choose a book to educate or entertain, and expose your children to the magic of reading.*

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# Alphabet Twister

**Activity:** twist-tie art  
**Need:** lots of plastic twist ties used to seal bread, garbage bags, and other food packages

Twisters can be used by your children to form letters, numbers, and other sculptures. Best of all, the twisters can be used again and again.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

# Alphabet Rummy

**Activity:** card game  
**Need:** 26 index cards  
black and red markers

Write the 26 letters of the alphabet on index cards -- one letter on each card. With a group of three or four children, deal five cards to each child. The remaining cards are placed in the center of the table, top card face up. The children draw and discard one card at a time. The object is to get five letters in alphabetical sequence.

# TEMPERATURE BUSTER



**Activity:** water painting  
**Need:** sand buckets  
flat paint pans  
brushes, all sizes  
paint rollers  
spray bottles

On a hot day, take the children out to paint with water. Have them paint everything and anything on cement sidewalks, brick walls, fences, trees, etc.

## TWEETS

**Activity:** pine cone bird feeder  
**Need:** 2 parts peanut butter  
1 part corn meal (more needed on a hot day)  
pine cones  
popsicle stick  
string

Mix peanut butter and corn meal. Spread the mixture on the petals of the pine cone with a popsicle stick. Tie a string around it and hang it on a tree limb.

# Funny Faces

**Activity:** edible art  
**Need:** large, flat sugar cookies  
canned icing  
popsicle or spatula  
candy and dried fruit decorations (raisins, licorice laces, red hots, gum drops, candy sprinkles, jelly beans, shredded coconut)  
paper plate or wax paper

Place cookie on paper plate or sheet of wax paper. Allow your youngster to spread the icing on with a popsicle stick or spatula. Decorate and make a funny face with a variety of candy and dried fruit decorations of your choice. Your child can then gobble up the funny face for a snack with a glass of milk.

# Mud Good Enough To Eat

**Activity:** mud pie  
**Need:** 15 chocolate graham crackers  
4 tablespoons melted margarine  
9-inch pie pan  
bowl  
wooden spoon  
softened pint of chocolate or chocolate-chocolate-chip ice cream  
gummy worms  
fudge sauce

Place chocolate graham crackers in a plastic bag. Let your child crush them with a rolling pin. Empty the crumbs into a bowl and stir in the melted margarine. Allow to cool. With clean little hands, let your child press this mixture into the pie pan to form a crust. Freeze the pan for 20 minutes. Put softened ice cream into a bowl and stir with a wooden spoon. Place ice cream in the pie shell. Sprinkle a few gummy worms on top for that "earthy" touch. Spoon on a nice muddy layer of fudge sauce. Freeze for one hour while you clean up your "muddy" adventures in the kitchen.

# SAND DARTS

Activity: beach dart game

Need: piece of driftwood  
three markers for each player

Draw a dartboard in the sand. Draw six concentric circles and give each ring a point value. Each player should choose three markers that look the same (three shells, three small rocks). Take turns tossing the markers at the dartboard, and keep score in the sand.



## THREE IN A ROW AT THE BEACH

Activity: sand tic-tac-toe

Need: 2 pieces of driftwood  
sandbox or the beach



Make a nine-square grid in the sand. Draw X's and O's with the driftwood. First to get three in a row wins!

# Landlubber Fishbowl Snack

**Activity:** edible fishbowl

**Need:** 1 well scrubbed, very clean fishbowl  
1 cup grapes  
3 6-ounce packages of blueberry gelatin  
1 package of gummy fish

Make a rocky ocean floor by pouring 1 cup of grapes into a clean fish bowl. In a separate bowl, prepare the 3 packages of blueberry gelatin, according to the directions. Refrigerate until partially set. Spoon the blue gelatin or "water" over the grapes. Place the gummy fish into the gelatin. Chill until firm. When done, "fish" for a snack with a ladle and enjoy.



# Honey Pot Snacks



- Activity: honey ball snacks  
Need: 3 tablespoons honey  
4 tablespoons peanut butter  
1/2 cup nonfat dry milk  
1/2 cup dry cereal flakes, crushed

Mix honey and peanut butter. Gradually add nonfat dry milk and mix well. With greased hands, form into balls. Roll in dry cereal flakes. Chill until firm. Makes 18 honey snacks.

# Finger Licking Paint

- Activity: finger painting with pudding  
Need: instant chocolate or vanilla pudding (made according to package directions)  
cookie sheet lined with waxed paper  
Optional: whipped cream  
colored sprinkles

With clean hands spread around about 1/3 cup of pudding on the cookie sheet. Allow your child to use his whole hand, a spoon, a fork, or cookie cutters to make pictures and designs. The whole scrumptious finger paint creation can be decorated with whipped cream and sprinkles. When done, eat the leftover pudding for a snack.



## Crunch and Munch Snow People

Activity:

Need:

edible popcorn people

bowl

wooden spoon

7 1/2 cups popped popcorn

1/2 stick of butter or margarine

10-ounce package of mini-marshmallows

pretzel sticks

raisins

dried cranberries

candy corn

gumdrops

red hots

licorice laces or fruit leather

Put the popcorn in a large mixing bowl and set it aside. Melt the butter in a non-stick saucepan over low heat. Add all the marshmallows, stirring continually with a wooden spoon until they are completely melted.

Pour the mixture over the popcorn and stir to coat evenly. As soon as the mixture is cool enough to touch, rub a little butter on your hands and make popcorn balls (one cup per ball).

Build and decorate your snowmen on a sheet of waxed paper. For each one, stack three popcorn balls. Push pretzel stick arms into the sides of the middle ball. Use raisins, cranberries, candy corn, red hots, and gumdrops to make the eyes, nose, mouth, and buttons. For a scarf, use licorice laces tied around the neck.

If your popcorn balls aren't sticky enough to hold the decorations, mix up a small batch of stiff white icing (add water a few drops at a time to 1/4 cup confectioner's sugar and stir until smooth) and use it to "glue" the candy in place.

# PUZZLE MANIA

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Activity: inexpensive puzzles  
Need: colorful magazine pictures  
cardboard (cereal box cardboard is perfect)  
glue  
scissors

Don't waste magazine photos. Mount a picture on a piece of stiff paper or cardboard. Cut it into 2, 3, 4 or more pieces (depending upon the ability of the child), and have the child put it back together.

# YARN ETCH-A-SKETCH

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Activity: yarn drawings  
Need: glue  
coarse sandpaper  
shoe box with lid  
heavy string and yarn of various colors, lengths, and thickness

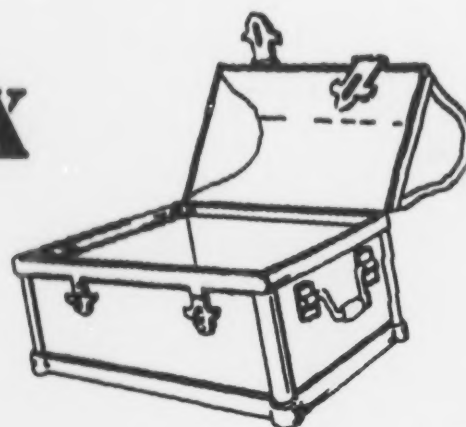
Glue a sheet of coarse sandpaper to the bottom of an upside-down shoe box. This will give your child a raised surface to work on. Using yarn or heavy string, encourage your child to make an outline picture on the sandpaper. The yarn will stick to the sandpaper. When your child wants to make another picture, she just pulls up the yarn and starts over. Then store the yarn in the box when it is not in use.

# ALL BOXED IN

**Activity:** box sculpture  
**Need:** shoe boxes  
cereal boxes  
egg cartons  
gelatin boxes  
paper towel rolls  
tape

Children can do amazing things with boxes, paper rolls and egg cartons! Simply provide the cartons and the tape and then watch them go to work.

## A TREASURE BOX OF STORIES



**Activity:** tale spinning with a felt board  
**Need:** shoe box with lid  
felt and felt scraps  
scissors  
glue  
sandpaper  
magazines  
**Optional:** family pictures

To make a felt storytelling board, cut one piece of felt to fit on the inside of the box lid and glue it in place. Blue is a good color for this background. Cut the scraps of felt into figures which will naturally stick to the story board. You can also clip magazine pictures and real photos for the board. Glue the cut-outs to cardboard. Glue a small strip of sandpaper to the back so they will adhere to the fabric.

Once you have a variety of characters, let your storyteller begin. When your child is done, just pack up the felt figures and conveniently store them in the shoe box.

# POPSICLE PUPPETS

**Activity:** puppet show  
**Need:** popsicle sticks or paper towel rolls  
plastic lids or small paper plates  
yarn and fabric scraps  
colored paper  
scissors  
glue

Make puppets to go along with some of your favorite classic children's tales. Glue or staple a lid or paper plate to the top of the popsicle stick or paper towel roll to create a head or body. Then use the fabric, yarn, and paper to create your story characters.

The following books are perfect for creating a puppet show:

*Goldilocks And The Three Bears*, retold and illustrated by Jan Brett, G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1987.

*The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, retold and illustrated by Paul Galdone, Clarion Books, New York, 1973.

*The Three Bears*, retold and illustrated by Paul Galdone, Clarion Books, New York, 1972.

# FINGER THEATER

**Activity:** finger puppets  
**Need:** old pair rubber gloves  
scraps of yarn, fabric, string, and paper  
small sequins and buttons  
glue  
scissors

Cut the tips off the rubber gloves (1 - 1 1/2 inches). Then make a face using the yarn, fabric, buttons, and paper. Create funny characters for each finger and you have a ready-made cast for a puppet show!



## "What If Pigs Could Fly?"

Activity: travel game for car, bus, train or plane

Need: your imagination

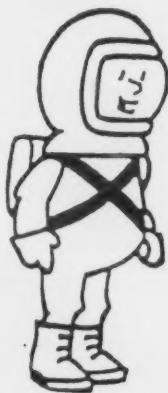
Ask your child WHAT IF ...

... trees could talk. What would they say?

... we lived at the North Pole in an igloo. What would we eat?

... we could only walk backwards. How would we see where we are going?

## "Just Suppose You Just Landed On Mars"



Ask your child to JUST SUPPOSE ...

... that when Goldilocks discovered the little house in the woods, Mama, Papa, and Little Baby Bear were at home. What would happen next?

... that the Seven Dwarfs decided to change their names. What would their new names be?

# ONE, TWO, TIE THAT SHOE! \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** practice tying shoe laces  
**Need:** cardboard  
hole punch  
shoe laces  
scissors



If you're tired of tying shoe laces, make a cardboard model of the top of a shoe. Punch holes and insert a lace. Have it available for your child to practice on.

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## FOOT FOLLIES

**Activity:** make foot people or creatures using your own footprints  
**Need:** white paper or grocery bag paper  
crayons or markers  
glue  
old buttons, beads, sequins, and fabric and yarn scraps  
pipe cleaners



Draw around your shoes on a sheet of white paper. Make these outlines into girls and boys or creepy creatures by adding features with crayon or felt-tipped pens. Paste old buttons or beads for eyes. Yarn scraps make funny hair. Arms and legs may be added using pipe cleaners.

## Frost-free Snow



**Activity:**

**laundry soap sculptures**

**Need:**

**2 cups powdered laundry soap, not detergent**

**1/2 cup water**

**electric beater**

**bowl**

**toothpicks**

**beads, twigs, cloves, buttons, pipe cleaners, fabric and yarn pieces**

Whip up a batch of faux snow with your child. Measure 2 cups of powdered laundry soap (not detergent) into a mixing bowl. Add 1/2 cup of water and beat with an electric mixer until the mixture looks and feels like dough. The mixture will have a grayish tinge.

Using your hands, shape the soap dough into three balls. Stack them by gently pushing a toothpick halfway into the center of the bottom ball. Then, push the middle ball down onto the toothpick until the two balls touch. Do the same for the head.

Add twig arms, clove eyes, shirt buttons, and fabric or yarn scarf. The snow will take a few hours to dry. As the snow dries it will turn bright white.

## Bubble Fun

**Activity:**

**soap sculpture**

**Need:**

**kitchen sink**

**water**

**dishwashing liquid soap**

**old shirt or apron**

**turkey baster**

**food coloring (optional)**

Fill the sink halfway with water. Whip in some dishwashing liquid soap and a little food coloring, if you like. Then let your child create soap sculptures. A turkey baster is great for knocking the sculptures down or changing the shapes.

# ENERGY BUSTERS

**Activity:** exercise activities  
**Need:** open space  
radio, tape, or CD player  
pillows

Turn on some bouncy tunes and let your child lead an exercise class. Suggest running in place, jumping jacks, and touching shoulders, knees, and toes. You can also play the game of FREEZE. When the music is turned off, freeze in position. Or play musical pillows; falling over into a soft, fluffy pillow is lots of fun.

Read the book *Toddlerobics* and as you read have your child discover all the moves he or she can make, like "clap your hands, stamp your feet, nod your head, and dance to the beat!"

## SING A BOOK

**Activity:** singing  
**Need:** a child  
a melody  
*I Know An Old Lady*  
illustrated by G. Brian Karas, Scholastic, Inc.  
New York, 1960  
or *Old MacDonald Had A Farm*  
illustrated by Glen Rounds, Holiday House,  
New York, 1989

Instead of reading the book, add the popular melody. Tone deaf? Sing with enthusiasm!

## Snuggle Up & Read: A Suggested Book List

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*The following book list includes stories about school, literacy, and the library, as well as books dealing with cultural diversity, feelings, and grown up issues, such as death, divorce, and adoption. Books can entertain and educate.*

*One of the best activities to share with a child is simply the joy of reading. Curl up together in a chair and enjoy sharing the unique pleasures of a book.*



# Libraries & Books: An Eye-Opening Experience

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- Alexander, Martha. *How My Library Grew, By Dinah*, H.W. Wilson Co., New York, 1983.
- Aliki. *How A Book Is Made*, T.Y. Crowell, New York, 1986.
- Brillhart, Julie. *Story Hours - Starring Megan!*, Albert Whitman and Co., Morton Grove, Illinois, 1992.
- Browne, Anthony. *I Like Books*, Dragonfly Books, New York, 1988.
- Gibbons, Gail. *Check It Out! The Book About Libraries*, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Publishers, San Diego, 1985.
- Huff, Barbara. *Once Inside The Library*, Little, Brown and Co., Boston, 1985.
- Kimmel, Eric. *I Took My Frog To The Library*, Viking, New York, 1990.
- Kuskin, Carla. *Watson The Smartest Dog In The U.S.A.*, Harper and Row Publishers, New York, 1968.
- Numeroff, Laura Joff. *Beatrice Doesn't Want To*, Franklin Watts, New York, 1981.
- Radlauer, Ruth Shaw. *Molly At The Library*, Simon and Schuster, New York, 1988.
- Stewart, Sarah. *The Library*, Farrar Straus Giroux, New York, 1995.
- Weil, Lisl. *Let's Go To The Library*, Holiday House Books, New York, 1990.

## Adventures In Reading & Writing

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- Arnold, Ted. *Signmaker's Assistant*, Dial Books for Young Readers, New York, 1992.
- Asch, Frank. *Moonbear's Books*, Simon and Schuster, New York, 1993.
- Carle, Eric. *The Birthday Message*, T.Y. Crowell New York, 1995.
- Cohen, Miriam. *When Will I Read?*, Greenwillow Books, New York, 1977.
- Hoban, Tana. *I Walk And Read*, Greenwillow Books, New York, 1983.
- Isadora, Rachel. *Willaby*, MacMillan Co., Inc., New York, 1977.
- Keats, Ezra Jack. *A Letter To Amy*, Harper and Row, New York, 1968.
- Maestro, Betsy and Giulio Maestro. *Harriet Reads Signs And More Signs*, Crown Publishers, Inc., New York, 1981.

McPhail, David. *Fix-It*, E.P. Dutton, New York, 1984.

Meddaugh, Susan. *Hog Eye*, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 1995.

Ormerod, Jan. *Reading*, Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Books, New York, 1985.

Oxenbury, Helen. *Pippo*, MacMillan Publishing Co., New York, 1988.

## Stories About Literacy

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Bradley, Marie. *More Than Anything Else*, Orchard Books, New York, 1995.

Bunting, Eve. *The Birthday Surprise*, Clarion, New York, 1989.

Duvoisin, Roger. *Petunia*, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1950.

Heide, Florence Perry and Judith Gilliland. *The Day of Ahmed's Secret*, Scholastic, Inc., New York, 1990.

Levine, Ellen. *I Hate English!*, Scholastic, Inc., New York, 1989.

Levinson, Nancy Smiler. *Clara And The Bookwagon*, Harper and Row, 1988.

Say, Allen. *Grandfather's Journey*, Houghton Mifflin, New York, 1993.

## Cultural Diversity: A World's Eye View

---

Carlstrom, Nancy White. *Northern Lullaby*, Philomel Books, New York, 1992.

Dorros, Arthur. *Abuela*, Dutton Children's Books, New York, 1991.

Ehlert, Lois. *Moon Rope*, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Publishers, San Diego, 1992.

Harvey, Brett. *Immigrant Girl, Becky Of Eldridge Street*, Holiday House, New York, 1987.

Hong, Lily Toy. *Two Of Everything*, A. Whitman, Morton Grove, Illinois, 1993.

Isadora, Rachel. *Over The Green Hills*, Greenwillow Books, New York, 1992.

Miller, Montzalee. *My Grandmother's Cookie Jar*, Price Stern Sloan, Inc., 1987.

Morris, Ann. *Bread, Bread, Bread*, Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Books, New York, 1989.

Mosel, Arlene. *The Funny Little Woman*, E.P. Dutton, New York, 1972.

Raczek, Linda Thresea. *The Night The Grandfathers Danced*, Northland Publishing, 1995.

Rochele, Belinda. *When Jo Louis Won The Title*, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1994.

Wyndham, Robert. *Chinese Mother Goose Rhymes*, Philomel Books, 1968.

Zemach, Margot. *It Could Always Be Worse*, Harper Collins, Canada, 1976.

## School Days

---

Cazet, Denys. *Never Spit On Your Shoes*, Orchard Books, New York, 1990.

Cohen, Miriam. *Best Friends*, The Macmillan Co., New York, 1971.

Cohen, Miriam. *It's George*, Greenwillow Books, New York, 1988.

Russo, Marisabina. *I Don't Want To Go Back To School*, Greenwillow Books, New York, 1994.

Wells, Rosemary. *Edward Unready For School*, Dial Books for Young Readers, New York, 1995.

Wolf, Bernard. *Adam Smith Goes To School*, J.B. Lippincott Co., New York, 1978.

## Did I See That?

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Aruego, Jose and Ariane Dewey. *We Hide, You Seek*, Greenwillow Books, New York, 1979.

Ehlert, Lois. *Color Farm*, J.B. Lippincott, New York, 1990.

Gardner, Beau. *The Turn About, Think About, Look About Book*, Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Books, New York, 1980.

Hoban, Tana. *Look! Look! Look!*, Greenwillow Books, New York, 1988.

Hoban Tana. *Take Another Look*, Greenwillow Books, New York, 1981.

Johnson, Stephen F. *Alphabet City*, Penguin Group, New York, 1995.

Micklethwait, Lucy. *I Spy An Alphabet In Art*, Greenwillow Books, New York, 1992.

Micklethwait, Lucy. *I Spy A Lion: Animals In Art*, Greenwillow Books, New York, 1994.

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Ayslesworth, Jim. *The Folks In The Valley - A Pennsylvania Dutch ABC*, Harper Collins Publishers, 1992.

Brown, Margaret Wise and Esphyr Slobodkina. *Sleepy A B C*, Harper Collins Publishers, 1994.

- Ehlert, Lois. *Eating The Alphabet*, Harcourt Brace, San Diego, 1995.
- Elting, Mary and Michael Folsom. *Q Is For Duck - An Alphabet Guessing Game*, Clarion Books, 1980.
- Feeney, Stephanie. *A Is For Aloha*, University Press, Honolulu, 1980.
- Fife, Dale. *Adam's A B C*, Coward, McCann and Geoghegan, Inc., New York, 1971.
- Hoban, Tana. *26 Letters And 99 Cents*, Greenwillow Books, New York, 1987.
- Hubbard, Woodleigh. *C Is For Curious, An A B C Of Feelings*, Chronicle of Books, San Francisco, 1990.
- Isadora, Rachel. *City Seen From A - Z*, Greenwillow Books, New York, 1983.
- Lionni, Leo. *The Alphabet Tree*, Pantheon, New York, 1968.
- Magee, Doug and Rober Newman. *All Aboard A B C*, Cobblehill Books, New York, 1990.
- Onyefulu, Ifeoma. *A Is For Africa*, Cobblehill Books, New York, 1993.
- Pallotta, Jerry. *The Underwater Alphabet Book*, Charlesbridge Publishing, Massachusetts, 1991.
- Phillips, Tamara. *Day Care A B C*, Albert Whitman and Co., Niles, Illinois, 1989.
- Rankin, Laura. *The Handmade Alphabet*, Dial Books, New York, 1991.
- Wormell, Christopher. *An Alphabet Of Animals*, Dial Books, New York, 1990.

## Colors

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- Ehlert, Lois. *Planting A Rainbow*, Harcourt Brace and Co., San Diego, 1988.
- Hoban, Tana. *Colors Everywhere*, Greenwillow Books, New York, 1995.
- Hoban, Tana. *Is It Red? Is It Yellow? Is It Blue?*, Greenwillow Books, New York, 1978.
- Lionni, Leo. *A Color Of His Own*, Pantheon Books, 1975.
- Reiss, John J. *Colors*, Bradbury Press, New York, 1969.

## Fun With Numbers!

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- Anno, Mitsumasa. *Anno's Counting Book*, Thomas Y. Crowell Co., New York, 1993.
- Anno, Masaichiro and Mitsumasa Anno. *Anno's Mysterious Multiplying Jar*, Philomel Books, New York, 1983.

- Axelrod, Amy. *Pigs Will Be Pigs*, Simon and Schuster for Young Readers, 1994.
- Carle, Eric. *The Grouchy Ladybug*, T.Y. Crowell, New York, 1977.
- Demi. *Demi's Count The Animals*, Grosset and Dunlap, New York, 1986.
- Ehlert, Lois. *Fish Eyes*, Harcourt Brace and Co., San Diego, 1990.
- Leedy, Loreen. *A Number Of Dragons*, Holiday House, New York, 1985.
- Mackinnon, Debbie. *How Many?*, Dial Books for Young Readers, New York, 1993.
- McMillan, Bruce. *Counting Wildflowers*, Lathrop, Lee and Shepard Books, New York, 1986.
- Reiss, John. *Numbers*, Bradbury Press, New York, 1971.

## Move That Body

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